

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

My name is Shawne Zakaria, Division Director for the March of Dimes. I would like to take this opportunity to express how supportive Clear Channel has been to our organization through the years.

In light of the upcoming "Localism in Broadcasting" hearing to be held in San Antonio on January 28, 2004, I would like to express my gratitude to the management and employees of San Antonio's local Clear Channel radio and television stations.

I have worked with Clear Channel for many years and they have always displayed a deep commitment to the people of San Antonio, whether their stations are airing public service announcements or providing an on-air personality to help lead our campaigns. Last year, we were fortunate to have Tom Graye, the morning show personality, as a Master of Ceremony for the WalkAmerica thank you reception.

In addition, we have had numerous PSAs played on all properties in support of various fundraising events. On three occasions last year, Clear Channel provided the audiovisual equipment at our cornerstone events, which helped us save tremendously on expenses.

Without the help of these Clear Channel stations, my organization would not be able to support lifesaving programs and research that benefit the San Antonio community. March of Dimes locally accomplishes this by funding programs of community service, advocacy, education of the public and health professionals, and grants. Clear Channel has been vital to helping us accomplish our mission: improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality.

During this upcoming hearing, Clear Channel radio and television should be recognized for offering San Antonio top-quality programming, entertainment and news, but also for their dedication to our local community.

Sincerely,

Shawne Zakaria
Division Director, San Antonio
March of Dimes